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DETACHED ANECDOTES AND OBSERVATIONS.

FALSE HUMANITY TO ANIMALS.

THERE is a species of sensibility, which may be indulged without producing the benevolence which can alone effectually improve the heart, so there is likewise a species of sympathy, which, though it prompts to active exertion, is, from its mode of operation, no less useless than the former. Both are to be ascribed to the same cause, and equally originate in the partial development and imperfect cultivation of the affections, which permits the selfish principle to controul their operations. In order to illustrate this subject, and to point out the uselessness of that species of benevolence, which selects certain classes of the animal creation as the objects of its peculiar and exclusive sympathy, the following instances of misdirected philanthropy are selected.

It is related of a certain Irish gentleman, celebrated in the annals of duelling; that though not remarkable for the indulgence of the tender sympathies in any other instance, his compassion towards horses was carried to such an extravagant extreme, as to put the poor farmers in his own territories to no small inconvenience. Exercising over them the despotic authority with which custom had invested him, he permitted no car to carry more than half the usual load; and even when his commands had been strictly complied with, frequently stopped them on the road, and obliged the poor carmen to relieve the horses, by taking half of the burden on their backs! Meeting one day with a lad whom he knew to be lame, riding a wretched horse, and contrary to the great

man's orders, riding at a round trot, he made the servant seize the delinquent, who stated in his defence the urgency of the occasion, which was no other than that of going for the *sage femme* to a village at some miles distance. In vain did he plead the fatal consequences that might ensue from delay. His landlord felt only compassion for the horse; and, in the excess of his benevolence, made the lad dismount and turn the beast into a neighbouring field to graze; while the poor woman on whose account he was employed, perished for want of that assistance, which, had he been permitted to proceed, he would have procured for her.

A lady with a zeal not inferior to that of Howard, devoted her whole attention to relieving the sufferings of the feline species. Happy the hunted cat whom luckless school-boys had driven within her premises! Doubly happy the little kitten whom any of her numerous emissaries had rescued from the rude grasp of such unfeeling urchins! But while every half-starved cat in the neighbourhood was led, as if by instinct to the banquet daily provided for them by their benefactress, it was currently reported that many half-starved children were sent fasting from the door.* It

* It is also asserted that in a season of scarcity, the parson of the parish deemed it his duty to remonstrate with the lady on this perversion of her bounty, proving by authentic calculation, that the food devoured by her favourites would, if it had been distributed to the poor, have afforded sustenance to a certain number of infants. Her reply is memorable: "O! do not speak of children; I cannot abide them, they are by nature so corrupt!"

must be observed that this want of compassion towards the children, was by no means the inevitable consequence of her compassion for the cats, but the consequence of having directed her attention exclusively to that persecuted race of animals, and of giving herself credit for an excess of sensibility on account of this partial and exclusive sympathy.

Mrs. Hamilton's Popular Essays.

UTILITY OF APPLICATION TO STUDY.

Sir Isaac Newton, being once asked to what his great pre-eminence over other men might be ascribed, modestly replied, that if he had made any advances in science, they could only be attributed to his superior degree of application. Application will indeed perform wonders; and they are to be pitied, who in early years are permitted to waste their time in idleness.

GOOD EFFECTS OF FEMALE INFLUENCE.

Judge Cook, fearful of exposing himself to the resentment of a wicked and powerful ministry, had determined to give judgment for king Charles I. in an important trial relative to the illegal tax of ship-money, which the king had imposed without the consent of parliament. The wife of Judge Crook, feeling indignant at her husband's want of resolution, addressed him in a style of Spartan magnanimity, and conjured him not to err against his conscience and honour for fear of incurring danger or poverty. For herself she would be content to suffer want or any misery rather than be the occasion of his acting against his judgment or conscience. Crook struck with the exalted sentiments, and strengthened by the reasoning of so persuasive a friend, altered his purpose, and not only gave his opinion against the king,

but argued with a noble boldness and firmness on the side of law and liberty. That there is an example of this kind in the history of my country, gives me infinite pleasure; but that there are so few, I feel with sensible regret. Were the principles of the generality of the female sex as just, and as well-founded as were those of this truly respectable woman, it would have a very happy effect on the conduct of society. We should not have to lament so many melancholy instances of human weakness, nor such a continued succession of patriots falling from the highest pinnacle of reputation into the pit of shame and infamy, and sacrificing the essential superiorities of virtue and honour to the fancied distinctions of a peerage and a ribbon. *Mrs. Macaulay's History of England.*

MUSIC.

When Antisthenes, who was a disciple of Socrates, and founder of the sect of the Cynics, was told that Ismenias played excellently upon the flute, answered properly enough, "Then he is good for nothing else; otherwise he would not have played so well." Such also was Philip's saying to his son, when at a certain entertainment he sang in a very agreeable and skilful manner, "Are you not ashamed to sing so well?"

A NULLITY IN LAW, RELATED LATELY BY EARL STANHOPE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

One of those London lawyers, who were remarkably clever at finding out the means of putting money in their own pockets, on one occasion came down to Kent to a small village on his lordship's property. A person had taken a pair of leather breeches out of a cottage in or near

the village, though without any intention to steal. But in the opinion of this lawyer the matter was actionable, and he instantly set about drawing a declaration, with which he waited upon him (Lord Stanhope) to shew how well he could do it. Having stated the circumstances, he gave him this declaration to read, and he accordingly began to read with this same lawyer standing at his elbow; and then, for the first time, he acquired knowledge of this wonderful science of declaration-making. There was no less than *twelve counts* in this declaration about taking away the leather breeches! There was no force—no *vi et armis*, in the business, for there was nobody belonging to the cottage at home when the breeches were taken away, and he was therefore somewhat surprised to find it charged that the defendant had with guns, pikes, halberts, pistols, and a variety of other deadly weapons, broke open this cottage and taken away the leather breeches. This was the first count. On looking at the second, he found that the defendant,

not content with small-arms, had attacked this cottage with cannons, cannon-balls, bombs, and other similar arms, and taken away the leather breeches. In the third count 100 horses, and 100 horsemen upon these 100 horses, had been brought into this village to storm the unfortunate cottage, and carry away the leather breeches: and, in short, out of the twelve counts eleven were pure fictions, there being only one which bore the least resemblance to the truth. He naturally asked the lawyer what was the meaning of these guns, pikes, and pistols, &c.? The lawyer, smiling at his ignorance, answered, "Oh, I see your lordship don't understand these matters; that is what we lawyers call a nullity." "What do you mean by these cannons, bombs, &c.?" "That is likewise what we lawyers call a nullity." "What do you mean by this troop of horse coming to carry away the leather breeches?" "That is what we lawyers call a nullity." In short, all were nullities except one.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

A VERY PRETTY PAIR OF PINDARICS.

ODE I.

YOU Critos and you Philo-Critos too,
In metre sweet my loyal Muse proposes
To dedicate a pair of odes to you,
So, prick your ears, and pray cock up
your noses,
And, as you move along with courtly amble,
Let all the Magazine-boys fear and tremble.

Men of mighty name, and mighty quill,
Old father Crito, and young Mister Phil,
Long may your well earned honours
grace you,

May no "Subscriber" dare again to move,
Nor "Irishman" give you a shove,

Or from the News-Letter venture to
displace you.

Sweet as the corn-rail's soft melodious
voice,

When nature bids both birds and beasts
rejoice;

Sweet as the carrion-crow's harmonious
croak,

From clust'ring hawthorns, or from groves
of oak;

Sweet as the howling of foreboding dogs,
Sweet as the notes of fifty hungry hogs,

Sweet as the mewings of an am'rous cat,
Or when she's growling o'er a conquered
rat;